

"UNAPPROVED MINUTES"

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 1, 2005

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2005, at the Cumberland High School, 2600 Mendon Road, was called to order at 6:20 PM, by Chairman Paul Neves, with the following present:

Paul Neves, Chairman, Donald J. Costa, Vice Chair, Arthur M DaCosta, Clerk, Earl T. Wood, Linda Teel, Robert C. Thibodeau, Rosa Crowley

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed. D., Superintendent and Members of the Cumberland High School Student Government (See attached List)

The purpose of this meeting was to open and engage in discussion between The Cumberland School Committee and The Cumberland High School's Student Government.

The meeting began with both members of the school committee and members of the student government introducing themselves. Mr.

Neves opened the floor to the members of the student government for any discussion.

Members of the student government inquired about several matters about the Wellness Center. The questions included the completion date and the running track size. The school committee responded with the project was well on its way to a near completion and the track was considered smaller than regulation size. The intent of the indoor track was for winter months. This would allow the walkers utilizing Tucker Field would have a place for recreational walking. The size of the track was never brought forward for discussion during Phase III building committee.

The student government also inquired about utilizing the center after their graduation from the high school. The committee responded with allowing the community to use the center as long there are not pre-scheduled events. Also the committee expressed that they would launch a marketing campaign for the center to bring in revenue.

Several questions were raised about the new windows used in the music wing. The Student Government was concerned about the high temperature that was in the room. Mr. Wood who sat on the building committee explained the windows used were of a new energy efficient material and it helps contain the heat in the classroom.

The Student Government brought concerns to the discussion about

the need for a new electronic portfolio and the readiness of the district. Dr. Morelle responded that there is not a requirement for an electronic portfolio due to the

Cumberland School Committee

March 1, 2006/Minutes

-2-

large number of portfolios for the state. The paper format would prove much easier for review of portfolios by the Department of Education.

Several concerns of smoking in the high school restrooms and the locking of some restrooms were brought up by the Student Government. The committee and Dr. Morelle explained that the impossibility of smoke detectors in the bathroom because of the mandatory response of fire personnel with each activation of detector. The students also observed students have been caught smoking and the impossibility to catch all offenders due to the fact of large number of restrooms. The reason of the locking of restrooms was for this reason where students are smoking in them. The committee and students agreed this was the reason to keep the some of the restrooms locked.

The student government also inquired if a portion of the Phase III bond would be allocated for lockers in the high school. The students

brought up concerns about the lockers and the condition of not locking. Mr. DaCosta inquired if this was the situation that possibly resulted in the high larceny problems at the high school. The Student Government agreed that if lockers were able to secure mechanically, this might solve many of the larceny problems. The students also expressed that teachers will not allow certain items in the classroom (i.e. cell phones, I Pods, and other electronic devices). The items are often stored in the lockers and then taken by other students. Also, the lockers in the Transitional Building do not have locks but, students are required to supply their own. These lockers are located in the gymnasium area where the students expressed it is impossible to see who is entering the locker room due to the fact of the dark corridor and level the locker room was located (second floor).

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur M. DaCosta Jr.

Clerk, Cumberland School Committee